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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who turns night shadows into morning, we pause in the freshness of this new day to seek Your guidance and to understand Your will.

Lead our lawmakers as they strive to serve the American people. Mold our Senators to Your purposes, fashion them with Your hands, and shape them into instruments for Your use. May they be sincere and honest in their relationships with one another, modeling integrity in all they do. Lord, empower them to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You.

Bring sense and system to our disordered world so that we may find the pathway that leads to peace.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 9, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNET thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 4213, which is a bill to extend a number of expiring provisions, some of the tax issues we have to deal with every year, and some other good things to create jobs. There are going to be rollcall votes throughout the day.

We have four amendments that are pending. The chairman and I spoke last night. We believe we need to clear some of these amendments out of the way before we start piling on more amendments. We really need Members to come forward. If they have amendments, talk with the managers of the bill. We need to move forward on this legislation. We cannot sit here, as we did yesterday, and not do a lot.

Tomorrow, as everyone knows, we are going to spend a lot of time on the Murkowski resolution. That could take as many as 7 hours of floor time.

We need to move forward. We are out of session on Friday and Monday, really the only two nonvote days we have this entire work period.

PRIMARY NIGHT

Mr. President, it was primary night last night. I expressed in many different ways—I was up early this morning with my supporters in Nevada, telling them I appreciate their help.

I congratulated my Republican opponent in the general election, Sharron Angle, on the campaign she ran. She actually came from nowhere in a 13-person field in the Republican primary to win this election. I extended my appreciation to her in that regard.

BASEBALL

Mr. President, as a little sidenote, because we have 5 months to campaign all over the country, including Nevada, I want to take a pause and think about some of the things going on in the country.

One of the things going on in the Nation's Capital is tremendously interesting to me, and that is baseball. I watched on television last night much of the performance of this 21-year-old phenom, Stephen Strasburg. I watched not only him pitch but the interview after the game. He is 21 years old. He carried himself so well. In 7 innings, he struck out 14 Major League Baseball players. He did it very well. He is right-handed, but he reminded me so much of Sandy Koufax because he throws more than 100 miles an hour. He throws a curveball about 85 miles an hour. People who follow baseball know that is remarkable. That is great control. The reason I mention that is because he was the No. 1 draft choice for the Washington Nationals.

The No. 1 draft choice for the Washington Nationals a couple of days ago was a 17-year-old boy from Las Vegas, NV, named Bryce Harper. When Bryce Harper was 15 years old, he hit a home run more than 550 feet, which is a Mickey Mantle-type of home run, which Mickey Mantle did not do often. He took the GED when he finished his sophomore year in high school. He went immediately to junior college and played in the Junior College World Series this year. He is a wonderful young man. He has a great family. He is going to be in Washington playing Major League Baseball very soon. I think he will probably start playing in the Major Leagues at about the same age

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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